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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



Founding member, Jacqueline O'Connor will be leaving the position of Managing Director of Richmond's Quill Theatre to pursue other ventures in the non-profit sector at the end of the month. Jacquie has built a legacy of accomplishments in the theater arts. As a founding member of Henley Street Theatre, she helped develop and sustain both its artistic and financial success and was instrumental in helping steer Henley's recent merger with Richmond Shakespeare to become Quill Theatre. *"I have been so blessed to be embraced by the Richmond theatre family. Being a part of Henley Street Theatre and Quill Theatre were rare opportunities for me to give back to a community that is so extraordinarily supportive of the arts. I look forward to continuing to be an active part of the theatre scene in Richmond!"* – Jacquie

Since moving to Richmond from New York almost 30 years ago, she has played vital and diverse roles in the region's vibrant theater scene. Jacquie has excelled as a theater founder, managing director, marketer, fund developer, arts teacher, producer, actress and stage manager. She has served in leadership and advocacy roles for local and statewide theater networks and associations. Jacquie was the recipient of Style Weekly's 2014 Women in the Arts Award, and won the 2014 Richmond Theatre Critics Circle award for Best Supporting Actress in a Play for her work in *Good People*. She was also awarded the Phoebe Award from the Richmond Times Dispatch for Best Supporting Actress in a Musical for *Jekyll and Hyde*, and received a Richmond Theatre Critics Circle nomination for Best Supporting Actress in a Musical for *Musical, the Musical of Musicals*. Jacquie holds a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre from Shenandoah Conservatory.

*“Jacquie has been a foundational member of the Richmond theatre community for almost three decades. On behalf of the subscribers, donors and partners, we offer Jacquie high praise and our collective appreciation for her exemplary leadership, fortitude, capabilities and passion. Quill Theatre would not be in existence today without Jacquie’s devotion and skills.”* – Tom Kazas, Vice President, Quill Theatre Board of Trustees.

The Quill Theatre Board of Trustees took Jacquie’s departure as an opportunity to think critically about the future of the theatre and the assets it had in place. Thus the Board of Trustees is pleased to announce that Dr. Jan Powell will be leading Quill Theatre as the Producing Artistic Director. Jan has a celebrated history as Artistic Director at Quill and throughout the country, including Tygres Heart Shakespeare Company in Portland, OR and Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival. Jan’s highly acclaimed recent work includes: *King Lear, Hamlet* (Richmond Theatre Critics Circle award nomination for Best Play and Best Direction) *Equivocation* (co-production with Virginia Repertory Theatre; RTCC award for Best Direction), *King John* (RTCC award nomination for Best Direction), and *Macbeth* (RTCC award for Best Direction.)

Jan will step in to her new role July 1, leading and directing Quill Theatre as we prepare to open *The Merchant of Venice* at the 18th Annual Richmond Shakespeare Festival at Agecroft Hall. Quill’s mission is to create theatre rooted in the genius of Shakespeare that provokes the mind and speaks to the soul – Theatre Worth Talking About.